

APRIL 2006

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YOUTH SERVICE DAYS OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

HEY KIDS! PLANT A TREE. CLEAN UP A park or street. Get involved in youth service opportunities coordinated by Human Services throughout the month of April. Youth who volunteer for City-sponsored programs will be invited to attend the Mayor's Volunteer Breakfast Buffet on **Saturday, April 29**, and will be recognized for their work. For more information, call 952-563-8737; TTY 952-563-8740 or e-mail kstone@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WANTED: WETLAND VOLUNTEERS CHOOSE FROM TWO PROGRAMS



BLOOMINGTON WETLANDS NEED YOU. Help preserve the city's natural environment by volunteering for one of the following programs.

Become a citizen biologist. Attend the **Wetland Health Evaluation Program** and learn water-monitoring techniques through free workshops so you can gather water-quality data for Bloomington wetlands. Sign up by early May. For information, call 612-596-9129 or visit www.mnwhep.org.

The **Adopt-A-Wetland Program** lets you select a water body you'd like to help and choose from a variety of activities, including litter pickup, invasive species removal, water monitoring and native buffer planting. Individuals, families, groups or businesses can sign up April through October. For more information, call 952-563-8751 or visit the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Adopt-A-Wetland.

TREES FOR SALE

PURCHASE A TREE AND PICK UP A FREE ponderosa pine seedling for the kids on **Saturday, May 6**. See page 5.



RUN FOR PEACE PARTNERSHIPS CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

BLOOMINGTON'S HIGH SCHOOLS, HUMAN Rights Commission and community partners will celebrate our differences with a "Run for Peace" on **Thursday, April 20**. Participating students and community members will start at Kennedy High School, run past Bloomington Civic Plaza and Creekside Community Center, and finish at Jefferson High School where both schools will observe Diversity Day with presentations and cultural awareness display booths and activities. Both Kennedy and Jefferson are designated as Official Peace Sites. For more information or to participate, call 952-563-8741; TTY 952-563-8740.



CATCH THE WAVE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY ADDS UNIQUE VENUE

EMPLOYING MORE THAN 20,000 PEOPLE, hospitality is Bloomington's number one industry. On any given day, it wouldn't be unusual for 10,000 visitors to be staying in Bloomington's hotels, a figure larger than the population of nine out of 10 Minnesota cities. One of the region's fastest growing areas, Bloomington's Airport South District, will soon be home to new hotels, restaurants, retail and entertainment.

"These types of developments bring tourists, an important revenue source for the City," Community Development Director Larry Lee said. "Lodging and admissions tax comprised \$5.4 million of the City's General Fund Budget in 2005."

The hotel industry is making a comeback from its 2001 downturn. January's 2006 lodging taxes slightly exceeded the January 2001 totals, setting a new high point for this revenue.

One project making a big splash is the 403-room Grand Lodge and Water Park of America under construction on the old Decathlon Club site, 1700 E.



American Blvd. The \$109 million development boasts a 75,000-square-foot indoor water park, luxury suites, spa, meeting rooms and restaurants and is scheduled to open this summer. The developer, the Wirth Companies, claims its project is America's largest indoor water park, featuring the world's highest indoor water slides. The project opens this summer and is Wirth Companies' second indoor water park

resort. The Grand Rios Indoor Water Park Hotel in Brooklyn Park opened in September 2004.

Five more Bloomington hotel projects, in the planning stages, could increase Bloomington's total hotel rooms to 8,000 by 2008.



The Grand Lodge and Water Park of America will feature luxury suites, in addition to an indoor water park that includes surfing, a wave pool, a kayak course and the world's longest indoor family raft ride.



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD
BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027

FUN WITH WATER

500,000 gallons
Amount of water in the park.

21,000 square feet
Total water surface area.

3,000 feet
Total overall length of slides.

**ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER**

Presort Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
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Permit
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AN ACTIVE COMMUNITY BY DESIGN
NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

By Mayor Gene Winstead

BICYCLING AND WALKING ARE POPULAR outdoor activities that are providing more and more people with recreation, fitness and transportation.

Designing communities where bicycling is a safe and convenient mode of transportation is something many cities are considering for the future. Bloomington, Hennepin County and neighboring cities are discussing plans to design, build and promote a bicycle transportation system that could link the area. Federal funding has been identified through a non-motorized transportation pilot program. Twenty-five million dollars are earmarked for Minneapolis and adjacent communities, and we are exploring whether Bloomington might benefit from this grant program.



If we can identify areas in our city where bike paths make sense, bike lanes could be considered when these streets come up for reconstruction. One of our goals would be to improve access for bicyclists and pedestrians while keeping traffic flowing.

Enhancing our transportation system to create more options for people increases mobility, promotes cleaner air and encourages physical activity. In 2004, the City took part in a Walkable Communities Workshop sponsored by the Metropolitan Council and Blue Cross Blue Shield to assess the community’s walkability and to help plan for the future. The City is currently collecting information on existing sidewalks and bikeways to assess and prioritize potential improvements and maintenance.

A solid trail system can provide options for bikers and walkers where they don’t have to compete with traffic. Bloomington has miles of hiking and biking trails within its 8,000 acres of designated parkland and recreational space, along the Minnesota River and around its lakes. The East Bush Lake Road Trail, currently under construction, will create 3.34 miles of new and existing trails with access to Hyland



Lake Park Reserve, Bush Lake Beach, Richardson Nature Preserve, Forest Glen Trail and Normandale Lake when it is completed this fall.

To increase awareness of the trail system, how they can be easily accessed and the benefits of utilizing the trails, Bloomington Public Health and the Parks and Recreation Division have developed a hiking and biking trail guide. For a free copy of the *Hiking and Biking Trail Guide*, call Public Health at 952-563-8904 or visit the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Trail guide.

WE CARE - PUT SAFETY FIRST

THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL AND BLOOMINGTON POLICE WANT YOU TO ENJOY YOUR BIKE RIDES FOR MANY YEARS TO COME. Please read these safety tips and traffic laws before riding.

RIDE YOUR BICYCLE SAFELY

Follow these safety tips:

- **Obey traffic laws.** A bicyclist has the same rights and responsibilities as an automobile driver.
- **Choose the safest left turn.** Signal, move into the left lane and turn left. At a busy intersection, ride through the intersection, get off your bike on the right side of the road and walk with your bike across the street.
- **Follow lane markings.** Don’t turn left from the right lane or go straight in a lane marked “right turn only.”

- **Always wear a helmet.** A helmet is the best way to prevent a serious injury if an accident occurs.
- **Watch for cars pulling out.** Make eye contact with drivers and assume they don’t see you.
- **Don’t weave in and out of parked cars.** Ride in a straight line with a safe distance between you and parked cars.
- **Scan the road behind you.** Look back and signal before changing lanes and consider using rearview mirrors.
- **Don’t ride with headphones in your ears.** Always be aware of traffic around you.



FOLLOW THE RULES OF THE ROAD

Bicyclists must know and obey the same traffic laws as motorists:

- **Ride on the right side of the road** with the flow of traffic and maintain control of your bicycle.
- **Obey right-of-way rules.** Yield to traffic and pedestrians who have the right-of-way.
- **Obey passing rules.** Pass to the left of a slower vehicle.

- **Use hand signals.** Signaling lets other drivers on the roadway know your intentions.
- **Avoid following too closely.** Do not tailgate other bicycles or vehicles.
- **Be properly outfitted for nighttime riding.** Ride after dark only if your bike has a headlight, taillight and reflectors as required by law for night riding. Wear reflective clothing and remain visible.

BRIEFING

Volume 14, Number 2

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Diann Kirby, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8818; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us.
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The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or status with regard to public assistance in employment or the provision of services. The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as required by Section 35.107 of the U.S. Department of Justice Regulations, and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as mandated by Section 8.53 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regulations. For information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; phone: 952-563-8700; TTY 952-563-8740.

The Importance of Building Permits

A Resident Tells His Story

ON MAY 30, 1998, BLOOMINGTON WAS HIT hard by a wind and hail storm that left behind 10,000 dump truck loads of brush and debris, and totaled \$1.2 million in public cleanup costs. Most of the shingle roofs in Bloomington were damaged, attracting many contractors from outside the area. The majority were legitimate, but a few were not.

Longtime resident David called several contractors to repair his roof, including one contractor whose ad appeared in the local paper.

“The Better Business Bureau had nothing bad to report and their estimate was in line with my insurance company,” David said. “The workers came out and removed and installed the shingles in one day.”

Four months later, David read an article on being wary of contractors who don’t post permits when doing work. He remembered paying the contractor for a City permit, but didn’t recall it being posted.

“I contacted the City and discovered that no building permit had been issued,” David said. “A City inspector called the contractor to remind them it was illegal to do work without a permit, but we never heard back from them.”

David soon learned the contractor had filed for bankruptcy. City building inspectors found many violations when



they inspected David’s roof. Shingles were incorrectly overlapped, the bathroom vent had been covered and the code-required ice and water shield was never installed.

Because David had hired a licensed contractor, he was eventually able to recover most of his loss from the Minnesota Department of Commerce Contractor Relief Fund. However, the process of getting a judgment against the contractor in order to be reimbursed took almost a year.

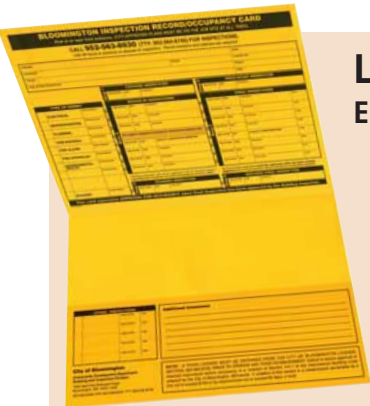
“I had to hire an attorney,” he said. “It was very frustrating and it took a lot of time.”

In the end, David said he learned a valuable lesson and offered a few suggestions for residents who are hiring contractors.

“Don’t just take the word of the contractor,” David said. “Ask a lot of questions, get referrals, hire only licensed contractors and make sure you see the City’s orange permit posted when they are performing work.”

In addition, don’t let contractors talk you into applying for the permit yourself. When contractors apply for the permit, they are directly responsible for correcting any code violations the City inspectors identify.

For more information or for a handout on hiring a contractor, call Building and Inspection at 952-563-8930 or visit the City’s Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Handouts.



LOOK FOR THE ORANGE CARD

ENSURE A SAFE AND HAPPY BUILDING PROJECT

To protect your health and safeguard the integrity of your home, permits are issued when a remodeling project involves construction. The City’s orange permit card lets you know the contractor has purchased a permit for your project and allows you to monitor inspections as they are completed. Once the project has started, the permit card must be displayed on site at all times. A final inspection must be done for every permit. It is your contractor’s responsibility to schedule the required inspections. A card is not issued for minor plumbing, heating or electrical work. Inspectors will leave comments as to whether the inspection passed or failed.

Cleaning Up After Winter

STREET SWEEPING BEGINS

AROUND THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL, Street Maintenance launches its annual spring-cleaning campaign to rid city streets of debris, dirt and sand left over from a winter of ice control. A clean sweep of all Bloomington streets takes about six to eight weeks.

Crews work two weekday shifts, beginning at 4 a.m. and ending at 8 p.m.

To protect the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and other water bodies from pollutants, streets in those areas are swept first, then crews move into neighborhoods. Sweeping starting points are rotated each year.

Sand and debris collected by street-sweeping crews are sent through a screener/shredder unit for sorting and

cleaning. Cleaned sand is later reused for ice control on streets.

Remember to keep a safe distance from street-cleaning equipment in operation. For more information, call 952-563-8760.



SWEEPING TECHNOLOGY

As Maintenance crews sweep city streets this spring, residents can check their progress on the City’s Web site. Get up-to-date information on the street sweeping schedule by using an interactive map of Bloomington. Visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: My World.

CITY APPOINTS NEW FIRE MARSHAL

DUGAL HEADS FIRE PREVENTION

GENE DUGAL WAS APPOINTED THE City’s Fire Marshal on February 9. A Bloomington Fire Inspector since 1991,



he has more than 20 years experience in fire protection. Dugal served 20 years as a volunteer firefighter

for the City and as a fire station captain for 12 years. Dugal also tested and inspected the fire safety systems of the Mall of America during its construction.

The Fire Marshal oversees the Fire Prevention Division that conducts more than 2,200 inspections a year of commercial and industrial buildings, hotels, schools and multifamily dwellings for compliance with state fire and building codes.

“The City requires fire safety systems in buildings because they save lives, prevent serious injury and protect property,” Dugal said. “It’s our job to ensure that these systems operate properly when there is a fire.”

Fire Prevention’s primary responsibilities include:

- Ensuring that new buildings are equipped to combat the spread of fire with protections such as sprinklers, fire doors and separation walls that are built into structures.
- Ensuring that exit signs, emergency lights and visual and audible fire alarms are in place to help people leave a building if a fire starts.
- Educating the public, including school children, senior citizens and commercial property owners, on ways to prevent fires, the importance of fire alarms and sprinkler systems, and evacuation procedures in an emergency. Bloomington’s award-winning work ranges from fireworks safety instruction to showing families how to prepare children to react promptly if there is a fire in the home.
- Investigating the cause of fires, and, when there is evidence of arson, working cooperatively with the Police Department to make sure the arsonist is identified, charged and convicted. Bloomington has an excellent track record of prosecuting arson cases.

Community Development Director Larry Lee said, “Gene was promoted to Fire Marshal because he has outstanding knowledge of fire prevention, is well-respected by his peers and has the background to carry on the Fire Prevention Division’s tradition of excellence.”

Visit the City’s Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Fire Prevention, for more information on the division and ways you can protect yourself and your family from fires.

IT’S TIME TO CLEAN OUT AGAIN!

- Put out materials **no more than two days before** your scheduled pickup.
 - Set materials **at the curb before 7 a.m.** on your curbside pickup day.
 - **Trucks will go through only once** on your scheduled day. If you miss the curbside pickup, call your trash hauler who will pick up your refuse for a fee.
 - **Seniors or residents who are disabled:** Unable to handle the materials?
- Contact your Neighborhood Watch block captains – or call the Human Services Information Line in advance for volunteer availability, 952-563-8737 V/TTY.

SCHEDULE

Location	Regular trash day is:	Curbside pickup is Saturday:
East of Portland	Monday	April 8
Portland to Penn	Tuesday	April 22
Penn to France	Wednesday	April 29
France to Normandale	Thursday	May 6
West of Normandale	Friday	May 20

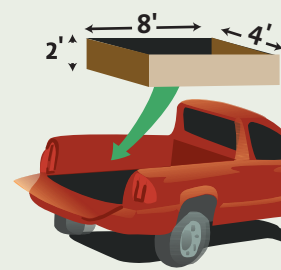
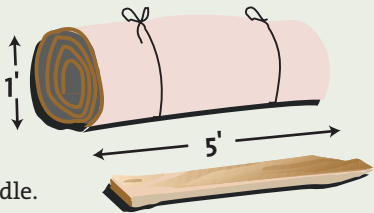
QUESTIONS?

CALL 952-563-8750.

Do you have items you would like to sell? Why not hold a garage sale? See page 5.

ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

- **General junk:** Boxed or bundled – under 100 pounds per item. No scrap metal or household trash such as food.
- **Appliances:** Water heaters, microwaves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers, etc. Limit TWO appliances per house. **No need to call ahead.**
- **Carpets/pads:** Rolled and securely tied. Under five feet long and one foot in diameter – larger rolls are hard to handle.
- **Larger scrap metal ONLY:** Office desks, clothesline poles and swing sets are examples of large scrap metal. Remove wood, rubber, cement and all nonmetal materials. NO cast iron tubs or items over 150 pounds. Take items that fit into an automobile to the Hennepin County Problem Facility for recycling. *See box below.*



- **Unusable furniture:** Disassemble hideaway sofa beds so they cannot open during handling.
- **Mattresses/box springs.**
- **Construction materials, lumber, windows and doors:** Pile limited to what fits in ONE level standard-size pickup truck. Lumber stacked and no longer than five feet. Bend nails. NO railroad ties. NO contractor materials.

- **BUNDLED brush:** Branches smaller than four inches in diameter and five feet in length. Includes buckthorn.



OPTIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

HENNEPIN COUNTY PROBLEM WASTE AND RECYCLING FACILITY

1400 West 96th Street, 612-348-3777

TU, TH, F 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
W 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
SA 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- **Hazardous waste:** Paints, motor oil, solvents and other household chemicals.
- **Tires and batteries.**
- **Electronic goods:** TVs, computers, stereos.
- **Recyclable materials:** Bottles, cans, paper.
- **Gas-powered, refrigeration appliances:** Camper/other fridges, air conditioners – call ahead, 612-348-5832.
- **Small scrap metal** that fits into a car trunk.



BURNSVILLE LANDFILL

952-890-3248

- Concrete, bricks.
- Porcelain: Tubs, sinks, toilets.
- Shingles.

NSP COMPOSTING

Burnsville, 952-736-1915

- Leaves, grass clippings, sod.
- Stumps, logs.

These facilities may charge a fee for disposal.

ENCOURAGING RESPONSIBLE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE IMPOSES FEES ON CHRONIC OFFENDERS

THE CITY CONTINUES TO USE AND DEVELOP TOOLS THAT MAINTAIN BLOOMINGTON’S appearance and focus on quality of life issues. To address repeated calls for law enforcement response to nuisance conduct or private property conditions, the City Council is considering an ordinance to impose a fee on the fourth nuisance service call within a year. Property owners, in addition to tenants, managers and mortgage holders, will be provided notice of City responses and warned of potential fees.

The ordinance covers all private properties where the physical condition is repeatedly out of compliance with the City’s nuisance code or when law enforcement officers are repeatedly called due to conduct that is harmful to the health, safety and welfare of the community. The ordinance also applies to a person who makes repeated calls about violations that are unfounded. The fee for chronic offenses will be between \$200 and \$2,000, depending on the City’s actual costs for response. If left unpaid, the nuisance service call fee may be assessed against the property.

The goal of the ordinance is to encourage responsible property management. Other cities across the country and in Minnesota have approved similar ordinances and have had successful results with compliance. Within one to two years after an ordinance was instituted, chronic calls to problem properties were ultimately reduced.

If approved, the ordinance will be in effect at the end of April. For more information, call 952-563-4895 .

Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it’s saving energy or guarding Bloomington’s natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...

EARTH ACTION HEROES

THE GREEN SANCTUARY TEAM



MEMBERS OF THE GREEN SANCTUARY TEAM CAME UP WITH A BRIGHT IDEA: SELL energy-saving fluorescent light bulbs to members after worship services. Some team members also took the campaign to the Friendship Village retirement community. In total, about 550 light bulbs were sold.

To help reduce global warming and encourage renewable energy and energy conservation, the team is also making their building more energy efficient.

“We had a building energy audit that revealed ways to save energy and money,” Committee Chair Lisa Herschberger said. “The team recommends purchasing wind power, a renewable source of electricity, for the church and encourages members to do so for their homes. We also support a Renewable Electricity Standard that would require Minnesota utilities to gradually increase the amount of new, renewable energy they use to 20 percent.”

Herschberger has found the Green Sanctuary Team, members of the Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, to be “a great way to bring people together in community, share ideas, work for a common cause and discover the wide range of talents that everyone brings to the effort.”

The team developed a partnership with other faith organizations throughout the metropolitan area to share ideas with similar teams in other congregations. The goal is to help members know how they can be good stewards of the earth.

“Each faith organization has their own language of talking about caring for the environment,” Herschberger said. “But the message is the same: we must leave the world a better place for generations to come – a healthy and sustainable environment.”

COMMUNITY EVENTS

CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY PURCHASE AND PLANT A TREE

SWAMP WHITE OAK, HACKBERRY AND RED Maple trees are for sale. Cost is \$50 each. Trees will be distributed **Saturday, May 6**. To purchase a tree, call 952-563-8751 or download a form from the City's Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Tree sale.

Commuter Challenge



HELP REDUCE TRAFFIC IN YOUR AREA



IT'S EASY AND ECONOMICAL TO REDUCE traffic in your area. Sit back and relax by taking the bus or light rail to work. Exercise your mind and body by riding a bicycle or walking to your job. Cut your commuting costs in half by carpooling. The Commuter Challenge encourages individuals to commute to work by using alternatives to driving alone anytime between April 1 and June 30. Pledge to try one commuting alternative and you will be entered in the prize drawing in July for iPods, commuter bicycles, a high-definition, flat-screen television, and a bed and breakfast stay.

The Commuter Challenge can increase morale and motivate employees to do something positive for themselves and the environment and it is just plain fun. In 2005, 262 metropolitan-area companies participated in the event.

Register an individual or a company by e-mailing melissa@494corridor.org or call Melissa Madison at 612-749-4494. Pledge forms are available online at www.494corridor.org.

A program of the 494 Corridor Commission, 494 Commuter Services provides information on commuting alternatives and is part of a regional effort to reduce traffic congestion.

TAKE THE PLEDGE WIN GREAT PRIZES

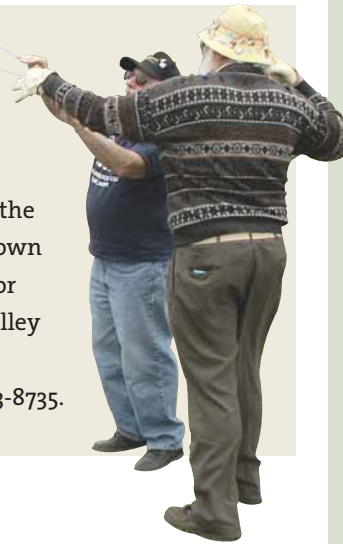


Seven European-style Trek L200 commuter bicycles will be given away during the Commuter Challenge.

KITE DAY 2006

CELEBRATING CHILDREN'S DAY IN JAPAN

IN HONOR OF CHILDREN'S DAY, A JAPANESE NATIONAL holiday that celebrates the health and happiness of all children, the Bloomington Sister City Organization and the City of Bloomington present Kite Day 2006. Bring your own kite, make one or receive one on site. Special guest Mayor Isaka from Izumi City, Japan, will attend the event at Valley View Playfields, 90th Street and Portland Avenue, on **Sunday, May 7, 1 p.m.** For more information, call 952-563-8735.



CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES

ATTEND THE SALES OR HOLD YOUR OWN



THERE ARE TWO GREAT WAYS TO CLEAN out this spring. Set items out for the Curbside Cleanup (*see page 4*) or sell your unwanted treasures at the Citywide Garage Sales that are sponsored by Human Services with support from the Bloomington Optimist Club, **Thursday - Saturday, June 1, 2 and 3**. Registration is \$20 (\$15 without a yard sign) and includes a yard sign, advertising and individual listing in the official registry

of sale addresses. To register or for more information, call 952-563-4873. Registration forms are also available on the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Garage sale. Deadline is Wednesday, May 17.

Purchase your garage sale list for \$2 beginning May 30 at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, or at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S. Lists will also be available on the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Garage sale.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

METROPOLITAN STADIUM DEDICATION

APRIL 24, 1956



Minnesota Historical Society

FIFTY YEARS AGO, BLOOMINGTON'S METROPOLITAN STADIUM WAS OFFICIALLY DEDICATED at a game featuring the Minneapolis Millers and Wichita Braves. The Millers were a professional, minor-league baseball team that played in Minnesota until 1960. Nicollet Park, a small, wooden structure at the corner of 31st Street and Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis, served as the team's home field for sixty years. A bond drive led by local businesses known as the Minneapolis Minutemen financed construction of a stadium for the Millers in Bloomington. Originally seating fewer than 20,000 fans, Metropolitan Stadium evolved into a combination of single, double and triple-deck stands without roofs. Gusty winds from the northwest helped right-handed hitters, earning the park a reputation as a home run haven. Metropolitan Stadium entered the big leagues in 1961 when the Washington Senators moved to Bloomington and became the Minnesota Twins. The Twins played their last baseball game in Metropolitan Stadium on September 30, 1981.

WHAT'S HAPPENING INFORMATION AND SERVICES YOU CAN USE

CREEKSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER, 9801 Penn Ave. S., houses the Human Services' Senior Program. For information on the following programs, pick up the quarterly catalog *Senior Splash* at Creekside, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Senior Splash, or call 952-563-4873; 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

GET ACQUAINTED WITH CREEKSIDE



Learn about the ongoing programs and activities at Creekside the **first Wednesday of each month, September - June, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.** This informal session includes information, a tour of the facility and a chance to get acquainted.

MAY IS OLDER AMERICANS' MONTH

Call Creekside to register for the following events:

Older American's Month Lunch and Party will be held **Monday, May 8, 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.**, with musical guest Mary Hall. Reservations are required.



Gather at the east entrance of The Park at the Mall of America (formerly Camp Snoopy) for the **National Senior Health and Fitness Day Fun Walk on Wednesday, May 31, 9 a.m.** This free event includes prizes and refreshments.

AARP'S DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASSES

Minnesota law mandates a 10 percent reduction in car insurance premiums for persons 55 and older who complete a defensive driving course. Classes are offered monthly at Creekside. Cost is \$10.

SPRING WALKING CLUB

The Spring Walking Club meets **Tuesday mornings in May** for hikes at a variety of Twin Cities locations. Buses leave Creekside at 8:30 a.m. and return at 11:30 a.m. A picnic lunch will follow the last hike. Cost is \$41. For more information, call 952-563-4949.

SUMMER SPECTRUM AN ARRAY OF ACTIVITIES

BEGINNING **MONDAY, JUNE 12** AND spanning nine weeks, Summer



Spectrum classes focus on youth entering grades K through 9. Classes

and camps will be held at Oak Grove Elementary, 1300 W. 104th St., with limited bus transportation available.

The catalog, mailed to the parents of school-age children in Bloomington public schools, is also on our Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Spectrum. For more information, call Parks and Recreation.

Summer Spectrum is a collaborative program of Bloomington Public Schools' Community Education, the City of Bloomington's Parks and Recreation Division, and the Bloomington Art Center.

OFF TO A FLYING START DISC GOLF COURSE AT HYLAND



ONE OF MINNESOTA'S PREMIER DISC GOLF courses opened at Hyland Ski and Snowboard Area, 8800 Chalet Road, last September.

Developed through a partnership between Three Rivers Park District and the City of Bloomington, the 18-hole course was created using a \$24,000 grant from the Metropolitan Council. A representative from the Professional Disc Golf Association worked closely with Bloomington Parks and Recreation staff and a consultant to design the course.

"The new disc golf course provides challenging elevations, tremendous scenery and fantastic amenities," says Randy Quale, Bloomington Parks and Recreation Manager. "Hole 18 is already a player favorite – it's 705 feet from the tee to the basket straight down the ski hill."

Disc golf, one of nation's fastest growing sports, is similar to golf. Players tee off and score the number of throws it takes to put the disc into an elevated metal basket. As in golf, the lowest score wins.

During warm-weather months, the course is open daily, 8 a.m. - sunset, and is operated by the Three Rivers Park District. Cost is \$3 for a single round and \$5 for unlimited play. For more information, call 763-694-7800 or Bloomington Parks and Recreation.

PARKS AND RECREATION

YOUTH SPORTS SIGN UP TO GET MOVING AND SMILE!

SUMMER ACTIVITIES THE FUN BEGINS ON THESE DATES!

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Super Sign-up Saturday Registration for all summer programs will be held at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, 9 - 11 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

Summer program registration continues at Parks and Recreation in Bloomington Civic Plaza.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Bloomington Family Aquatic Center and **Bush Lake Beach** open.

MONDAY, JUNE 12

Summer Spectrum classes, **Summer Playground** program and **Arts in the Parks** series begin.

MONDAY, JULY 24

Camp Kota begins.



SPLISH, SPLASH AND SWIM

BUSH LAKE BEACH

9140 E. Bush Lake Road

IS THERE ANYTHING BETTER ON A HOT SUMMER DAY THAN PLAYING AT THE BEACH?

A daily pass or seasonal parking permit is required for entrance to Bush Lake.

When: June 10 - August 20.

Time: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Parking permits for Bush Lake Beach will be available for purchase beginning Saturday, April 8. Cost for parking at Bush Lake is \$4 daily or \$25 annually (June through August). For more information, call Parks and Recreation.



BLOOMINGTON FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

301 E. 90th Street

ENJOY ANOTHER SEASON OF FAMILY FUN AT THE BLOOMINGTON FAMILY AQUATIC Center. Amenities include a zero-depth entry pool, interactive play features, waterslides, diving boards, sand volleyball, bathhouse and concession stand.

When: June 10 - August 20.

Time: Noon - 8 p.m.

Cost:	Age	Daily admission	After 5 p.m.
	Under 1 year	Free	Free
	1 - 5 years	\$4.75	\$3.75
	6 - 54 years	\$6.75	\$4.75
	55+ years	\$4.75	\$3.75

Season passes

Family (2 people)

Resident:	\$75 + \$10 each additional member + tax.
Nonresident:	\$130 + \$10 each additional member + tax.

Individual

Resident:	\$37.50 + tax.
Nonresident:	\$65 + tax.

Purchase your season passes at Super Sign-up on April 8, Parks and Recreation office beginning April 12 and the Aquatic Center on June 10.

AR&LE

ADAPTIVE RECREATION AND LEARNING Exchange Cooperative (AR&LE) offers opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in recreation, leisure and community education programs in Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield.

ADAPTIVE YOUTH SOFTBALL



THIS PROGRAM TEACHES BASIC RULES and good sportsmanship in a non-threatening environment. Siblings and parents are invited to volunteer.

Who: Boys and girls with disabilities, ages 10 - 18.

When: Mondays, June 12 - August 7, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Tarnhill Park Field #2, 9650 Little Rd.

Cost: \$45 resident; \$50 nonresident. Includes team shirt.

Register: Call Parks and Recreation.

ADAPTIVE ADULT CO-RECREATIONAL SOFTBALL LEAGUES

NEW! ENJOY TWO LEVELS OF PLAY.

Competitive softball is for adults with disabilities who want to play in a competitive league with a strong focus on playing to win.

Teams will be assigned. Experience is not required, but recommended.

Who: Adults, 19 and older.

When: Tuesdays, June 13 - August 8, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Tarnhill Park, Field #2, 9650 Little Road.

Cost: \$45 resident; \$50 nonresident.

Register: Call Parks and Recreation.

Recreational softball for adults with disabilities who are out to meet new friends and play some fun softball.

Who: Adults, 19 and older.

When: Wednesdays, June 14 - August 9, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Tarnhill Park, Field #2, 9650 Little Road.

Cost: \$45 resident; \$50 nonresident.

Register: Call Parks and Recreation.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

LOCATED IN BLOOMINGTON CIVIC PLAZA AT THE CORNER OF WEST 98TH STREET AND Old Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing eight arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, call 952-563-8567 or visit the City's Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Calendar.

EXHIBITIONS

BLOOMINGTON ART CENTER (BAC)

952-563-8587

INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

Open Mike Poetry Night is held **Saturday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.** Cost is a \$3 donation. To participate, call BAC.

On Firm Ground, featuring the photography of artist Larry Kanfer, and **Life on the Farm**, featuring the photography of artist Dean Riggott, run **March 31 - May 5**.

Members' Juried Art Exhibition runs **May 19 - June 16**. Opening reception is Friday, May 19, 6 - 8 p.m.

GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Friday	8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	1 p.m. - 10 p.m.

ATRIUM GALLERY

Many Landscapes in Nature, featuring artist Mike Kramer, runs

March 2 - April 14.

Pointillism, featuring artist Douglas Trego, runs **April 20 - June 2**.



Photo left, "1st Congregational Church" by Douglas Trego

SCHNEIDER THEATER

THURSDAY MUSICAL

Thursday Musical concludes its season of classical music concerts on **Thursdays, April 6 and April 20, 10:30 a.m.** Tickets are \$10 adults; \$6 students. Season tickets for the 2006 - 2007 series are \$60; \$50 for seniors. For more information, call 612-333-0313 or visit www.thursdaymusical.com.

CONTINENTAL BALLET COMPANY

SLEEPING BEAUTY



This classical fairy tale is to be performed **Saturday, April 8, 7:30 p.m., and April 9, 3 p.m.** Tickets are \$24 adults; \$18 seniors/

students, \$12 children under age 13. For more information, call 952-563-8562.

MEDALIST BAND SPRING CONCERT

Professor Jerry Luckhardt and the band perform *American Rhapsody*, a showcase of folk tunes, marches and patriotic songs, **Monday, May 22, 7:30 p.m.** For tickets, call 952-563-8575.

NOTE-ABLE SINGERS

NOTE-able Singers, a women's show choir, perform *Celebrate Life!*, featuring Broadway songs mixed with swing, jazz and a few novelty tunes, **Thursday, June 1, 7:30 p.m.** Tickets are \$8; \$5 age 62 and older/children under age 13. For tickets, call 952-831-1662 or 952-563-8582.

SCHNEIDER THEATER LOBBY SPRING ART SALE

BAC students, instructors and staff will feature their pottery, glass, jewelry, artwork and more **Thursday, May 11, 4 - 10 p.m., Friday - Saturday, May 12 - 13, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m., and Sunday, May 14, 1 - 4 p.m.**

BLACK BOX THEATER

GALLERY PLAYERS

A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED

One of Agatha Christie's delicious whodunits will be performed **April 20 - May 7, Thursdays - Saturdays, 7:30 p.m., and Sundays, 2 p.m.** Tickets are \$12 adults, \$10 seniors/students; \$10 adults/groups of 12 or more on Thursday nights. The April 21 performance is American Sign Language interpreted.

NINE MILE CREEK THEATER COMPANY

THE GINGERBREAD MAN

A youth ensemble performance by Nine Mile Creek Theater Company will be performed **Thursday - Friday, May 18 - 26, and Saturday, May 20, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 21, 2 p.m.**



ADULT SPORTS

TENNIS

ALL LEVELS OF PLAY, BEGINNERS TO advanced, are offered for women, men, seniors and children. For more information, call Parks and Recreation or visit the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Tennis.

SOFTBALL SENIOR LEAGUE



THE BORN Again Jocks Softball League welcomes all men, age 55 and older, with all levels of ability. Games are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:15 a.m., at Valley View, 9000 Portland Ave. S. The season starts Tuesday, May 2. For more information, call Dick Wortman at 952-888-1814, call Loran Wendt at 952-831-4759 or e-mail Bob Wandberg at bwandberg@qwest.net.

THE BORN Again Jocks Softball League welcomes all men, age 55 and older, with all levels of playing

VOLLEYBALL

SUMMER SAND WOMEN'S AND CO-REC LEAGUES

TEAMS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING one volleyball.

When: Evenings, June 5 - August 17.
Where: Dred Scott Playfield, 10820 Blmgt. Ferry Rd.
Cost: \$195 Recreation Leagues; \$255 Refereed Leagues.
Deadline: May 5.

DAYTIME

ENJOY VOLLEYBALL AT THE BLOOMINGTON National Guard Training Center, 3300 W. 98th St. Teams are formed each week.
When: All year, Tuesdays and Thursdays
Beginners 9 - 11 a.m.
Intermed. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Cost: \$1.50 per session.

PARKS AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR 2006

Public meetings are scheduled with residents living within one-quarter mile of each park or playlot.

TENNIS COURT RENOVATION

Renovation of the existing two tennis courts into a basketball court and a tennis court at Cedarcrest Park, 8700 Bloomington Ave. S.

Bloomington Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission will review improvement plans and forward recommendations to the City Council. Funding for these improvements is pending City Council approval. For more information, contact Lance Anderson, Park Designer and Project Coordinator, at 952-563-8738 or e-mail landerson@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

BLOOMINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION IS committed to maintaining and improving Bloomington's many park facilities. Included in the City's 2006 Capital Improvement Plan are the following proposed park improvements.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

- Replacement of worn playground equipment at the following:
- Brookside Park, 10000 Xerxes Ave. S.
 - Hohag Playlot, 9113 16th Ave. S.
 - Quail Ridge Playlot, 7301 Minnesota Bluffs Dr.
 - Xavier Playlot, 11276 Xavier Road.

ANNUAL SHAPEUP CHALLENGE GET OUT AND GET FIT

THE SHAPEUP CHALLENGE GEARS UP FOR ITS 22ND year of motivating employees to exercise. This friendly competition between Bloomington worksites awards points to employees for doing aerobic activities along with strength and flexibility training. The ShapeUp Challenge runs from **May 1 to June 2**. Sponsored by Parks and Recreation, this is a great way to introduce fitness, team spirit and a little fun into your workplace. For more information, contact Randi Wallenberg at 952-563-8892, e-mail rwallenberg@ci.bloomington.mn.us or visit ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Shapeup. Registration deadline is April 19.





EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENT TRIA ORTHOPAEDIC CENTER

TRIA ORTHOPAEDIC CENTER, 8100 Northland Drive, was recently presented with the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties Minnesota Chapter Award of Excellence. The award honors exceptional new office, industrial, mixed-use and special purpose developments throughout the region. Bloomington-based United Properties was the developer of the project.

A one-stop shop for orthopaedic care, surgery, research and education, TRIA opened at the intersection of I-494 and France Avenue last June.

TOGETHER WE STAND



WHAT DO ALL PARENTS DESIRE FOR THEIR KIDS?

Health, happiness, opportunity.

Parents can support each other by not providing alcohol to minors. Obey the law and encourage other parents to do the same.

UNDERAGE DRINKING INCREASES during prom, graduation parties and summer celebrations. Parents, community leaders and other supportive adults play an important role in reducing underage drinking.

- The strongest predictor of kids not using alcohol, marijuana and other drugs is the belief that their parents will be upset if they do.
- New research shows heavy drinking in the teen years can cause long-lasting harm to thinking abilities.
- It is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to possess or consume alcohol.
- It is illegal to provide alcohol to anyone under the age of 21.



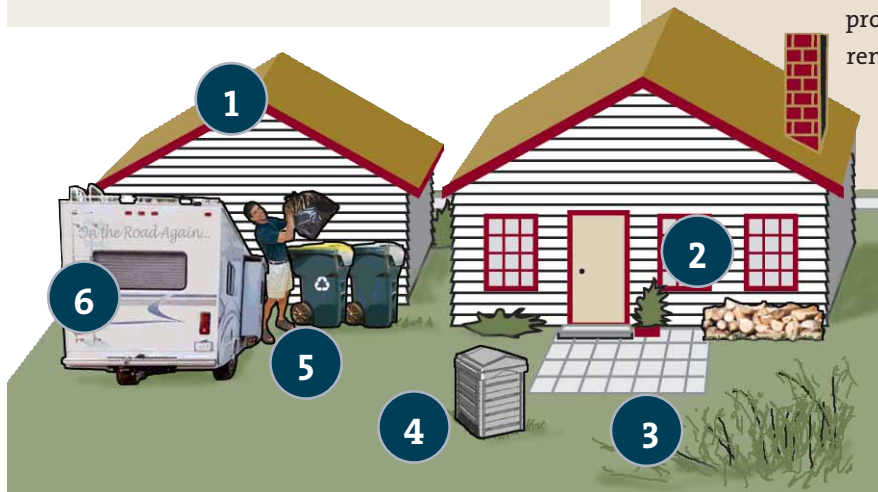
For information, call Bloomington Public Health at 952-563-8900 or visit www.tricitypartners.org.

UP TO CODE KEEP OUR CITY LOOKING GOOD

RESIDENTS PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN MAINTAINING our city's quality and appearance. The City has standards describing how property owners must maintain buildings and grounds, and, in addition to inspection programs (*see below*), relies on concerned residents to maintain their property and notify the City if a neighborhood property is becoming a problem. Here are some city codes regulating your house, neighborhood and pets. **Report nuisance or ordinance violations at 952-563-8934.**

STORAGE

- 1 Materials, machinery and equipment must be stored in a building or be fully screened from view.
- 2 Firewood stack sizes and location are regulated.



REFUSE, LITTER AND WEEDS

- 3 Grass and weeds must be cut before they reach one foot high.
- 4 Compost piles must be screened and located in the rear yard at least 10 feet from property lines. Place grass clippings and leaves in the pile to be composted or have them removed by the garbage hauler.
- 5 Waste, debris and refuse must be kept in an enclosed building or a closed container no more than five feet in front of the dwelling. Homes and businesses must have weekly refuse and recycling service.

VEHICLE PARKING

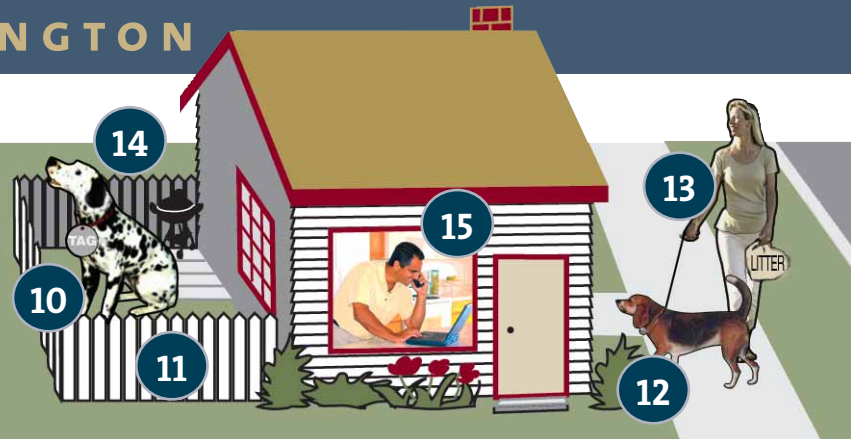
- 6 Vehicles must be parked in the garage or on the driveway. In certain circumstances, RVs may be stored in the back or side yard. For more on RVs, visit our Web site, keywords: Recreational vehicle.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEB SITE, KEYWORD: ENVIRONMENTAL.



- 7 Unlicensed or inoperable vehicles must be stored in a garage or be fully screened from view.
- 8 Number of vehicles parked at a home is limited to the number of people with driver's licenses plus one.
- 9 Nonresidential vehicles and vehicles longer than 22 feet and/or

higher than seven feet six inches may not park in residential areas, except when rendering a service or during lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. when they may park in the operator's driveway. For more information on large vehicles, visit our Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us keywords: Motor vehicle ordinance.



PETS

- 10 All dogs and cats must be licensed annually with the City and display their tags at all times. Rabies vaccination certificates for dogs and cats are required.

- 11 Dog enclosures must be screened from view of adjacent properties and be set back 10 feet from lot lines and 50 feet from adjacent homes.

- 12 Animal feces on public and private property must be removed by the pet owner.

- 13 Dogs must be kept under restraint by leash, a fence or voice command.

- 14 Frequent, continued barking is prohibited. **If you have a pet complaint, call Animal Control at 952-563-4942.**

HOME OCCUPATIONS

- 15 Certain occupations are prohibited in residential zones, including manufacturing; retail, where the customer comes to the home; and repair businesses. Businesses that operate only by phone or mail are generally permitted.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM ENHANCING AND PRESERVING NEIGHBORHOODS

BLOOMINGTON HAS PROGRAMS TO HELP maintain and improve neighborhood appearance. The City's goal is to increase compliance with City ordinances and reduce complaints about property violations by keeping residents informed on City codes, offering home improvement loans and enforcing compliance with the codes when violations occur.

In addition to citywide inspections conducted by the Environmental Health Division, the Community Enhancement Program (CEP) promotes concentrated

public education and enforcement of zoning regulations, nuisance abatement and property maintenance to address violations proactively before they become citizen complaints. The result is a greater compliance rate after the initial correction order, compared to compliance with orders issued after a complaint was filed.

In 2005, the second phase of the Community Enhancement Program (CEP II) began by addressing specific blocks instead of entire neighborhoods, allowing for more thorough inspections

and focusing efforts in locations where the most complaints occur. Of the 275 properties inspected in 2005, 41 percent were given correction orders. Currently, 6 percent of the original 275 homes inspected have unresolved code violations. Most of these homes were granted extensions to complete work due to cold weather or participation in the Housing and Redevelopment Authority Neighborhood Loan Program. CEP II will continue in 2006.

For more information, call Environmental Health at 952-563-8934.